

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 1, 2010
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Jessie Hoagland
Ira Berkowitz	Dick Hyde
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Judy Goodman	Mark Winings

Excused/Absent

Rosemary Hardy
Robert Kerr

Also present:

Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder

Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience - There were no addresses from the audience at this meeting.

Director's Report – The Ball Field project is finished. Staff has been trained on how to operate the new lighting system. The lighting system can be programmed by phone and through the internet; therefore staff can set specific times for the lights to turn off without having to be at the fields. Mr. Gruenenfelder talked to the contractor and he stated that games could begin to be played on the fields in mid-March if the weather cooperates.

The Fitness equipment replacement process is complete. Nine pieces of cardio equipment were replaced and we purchased one new piece of equipment for the fitness floor.

The motor is out on a compressor at the ice rink. The cost to repair the compressor is \$15,000. A new compressor can cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$40,000 and takes twelve weeks to arrive, so the compressor will not be repaired or replaced until prior to next season.

The trail project at Oak Knoll is complete, but some of the sod has to be touched up around the trail when the weather gets warmer.

The Parks and Recreation staff had a meeting with the playground consultant, Cunningham and Associates, to discuss paring down the playground project. It would have made the playground quite a bit smaller and would have eliminated the sprayground. Since this was the case, Ms. DeForrest met with the City Manager to discuss the possibility of the City making an amendment to the budget to cover the additional cost of the project. The BOA approved the budget amendment. The playground construction is scheduled to begin sometime in March and be completed in July.

Master Plan Review – Ms. DeForrest led the discussion about the Shaw Park Master Plan projects. The sixteen projects listed along side of the Shaw Park map were discussed at the meeting. (Please refer to the map for additional details.)

1. Shaw Park Pool Improvements

A. Provide additional shade – This project is complete and the shade structures will be in place for the 2010 Shaw Park Aquatic season. There are also plans to add additional shade in the future.

2. Ice Rink Options – The Ice Rink Task Force developed a list of options for the Ice Rink. Ms. DeForrest stated that the list will be reviewed in the near future.

3. Tennis Center Improvements – The repair work at the Tennis Center was postponed during the budget process in order to give more time to explore the use of new products that are on the market that would prevent us from having to tear out and resurface the courts. Ms. DeForrest noted that there are occasionally requests to have additional shade and to change the lighting because it is low. While

these are in the recommendations, her preference would be to leave the lighting as is. As far as shade, perhaps looking into shading court #10 makes sense.

4. Permanent Corporate Pavilion – This is more of a wish list item at this point in time. The canopy at the Corporate Tent has to be taken down at the end of each season and is put back up in April. Every 5 years it has to be replaced and costs \$20,000.
 - A. Comfort station – It would be a good enhancement to have permanent restrooms at this site because currently patrons have to walk to the restrooms at the North or South Shelter or rent port a potties and those damage the area around the tent.
 - B. Reconfiguration of Service Area – this will take place when the trail project is being completed.
5. Possible Structured Parking Location – A permanent parking structure would cost at least \$1,000,000 and would not be very large; this has been moved to the excluded project list at this time.
6. Existing Comfort Station/ Pavilion to Remain – Some updates have been made in-house to the restroom facilities at the shelters such as the replacement of fixtures, painting and detailed cleaning. The remainder of the updates are scheduled to take place in 2012.
7. Refer to #4; #7 was a duplication of #4.
8. Amphitheatre – This item is 45th on the Master Plan. Currently there is no funding or design for an amphitheatre in the park. The big question is: if an amphitheatre was designed, would it be located in the south or north end of the park.
9. Inclusion Playground – this project is scheduled to begin in March of this year.
10. Relocate Volleyball Courts - The volleyball courts are set up from east to west now, so the courts would be moved to have a north/south orientation. The change would require sweet gum tree removal. Most of the work to re-do the court can be completed in house. Our plan is to relocate the volleyball courts when we are in the process of installing the new playground.
11. Improve Park Service Roads – This project is complete.
12. Interior Turn Around / Drop-off – This project was ranked 39th in the master plan. Developing this turn around is part of the trail project.
13. Connection to the Centennial Greenway – This project will be completed at no cost to us. There will be one connecting point to our trail; this section will begin near the Metro Link rail road tracks and continue to Olive Road.
14. Lighting for Fields #1 & #2 – This project is complete. The new lighting will give us the ability to improve our programming, because we will be able to have games later into the evening.
15. Walking Trail with Signage System – We have begun working on a plan for this project and there will be signage along the trail.
16. Park Entry Feature – There are plans to change the entry features. The entry features will include landscaping and benches. We installed 4 kiosk signs at entry points in Shaw Park.

Other items

- A. New Pedestrian Park Lighting System – The system we have is at least 37 years old. The cost to re-do the entire lighting system is approximately \$400,000 so we would complete this project in pieces. Some of the work may be when the trail project is underway.
- B. Understory Vegetation Enhancement Plan – This is an on-going project. Many of the larger trees in Shaw Park are quite old; therefore we have been planting smaller trees and adding more landscaping.

- C. Screen Utility / Service Areas – Mr. Tim Hale from our parks department is building a wood fence around the service area behind Shaw Park Aquatic Center.
- D. Shaw Park Drive Landscape Enhancements – The parks staff is already working on making changes in this area.

Ms. DeForrest also noted the following additional items about Shaw Park have been discussed: a design for an amphitheater in the current location of the newly renovated fields, a rain garden that may enhance the north end of the park and be part of a storm water management plan, and ideas about skate parks, dog parks and a installing a cover on Shaw Park pool to make it a year round pool. Parks and Recreation staff has been working from Master Plan for the last several years.

The discussion about the Shaw Park Master topics plan began by discussing Sasaki Associates Central Business District (CBD) Master Plan. Ms. Goodman explained that Sasaki Associates were hired to put together a Master Plan for the CBD. The firm identified six different districts and also looked at the district as a whole. Shaw Park was included in one of the districts because it located on the edge of the CBD. The firm is seeing how the park ties into the CBD and the associates are taking a look at finding out how we could get 30,000 corporate employees either to stay in or come back to the City after 5:00 pm. They want to determine how the City would you like to use this oasis. What has to be decided upon is what part of the park we want to have as active and what area(s) do we want to be passive. Further, the discussion included the potential of moving the Tennis Center and having something more intriguing at the south end of the park. Ms. Goodman said the bottom line is the information Sasaki Associates presented put a wrinkle in the way we have been viewing the park and got us thinking about other possible options. The most important thing to consider is what the Clayton community would like to see take place in the park. Moreover, there are a lot of factors to consider before making any dramatic changes to Shaw Park. Mr. Berger stated that the land based area of the park was looked at as an extension to the CBD. The Landscape Master Plan was not brought into this plan, and not considered or discussed. He noted that the possibility of hiring a consultant for the Ice Rink and Hanley House projects was omitted from the BOA agenda because there simply were too many things taking place. Also, since other studies are going on the BOA felt as if it would not be in everyone's best interest to discuss hiring any new consultants until we determine exactly what path we are going to take.

Ms. Deem said the Master Plan clearly depicts what the citizens of Clayton want, especially because they were surveyed about parks when the Master Plan was designed. Ms. Goodman said we need to find the balance between active and passive uses of our green space. She likes the idea of an amphitheater and said we will have to consider the best place for it, what it would look like and how it would be used. Mr. Berkowitz stated he believes there are already plenty of things going on in Shaw Park on weekends and during primary sport seasons. The Ice Rink Task Force already had discussions about making the ice rink a destination place for the community. It would be a great place to do more recreational things in winter.

Ms. Hoagland said this is a very good mental exercise to look at the park from other aspects. Ms. Hoagland asked Ms. DeForrest if we want to have more people in the park. Ms. DeForrest responded by saying this is a very good question. We already have extensive usage in the park with sports and park rentals during the park season. Ms. Goodman stated that we have to settle on some projects once and for all so we can move forward.

Ms. DeForrest noted that the first Annual Report to the community will be ready by March. The report will have stories about what took place in the Parks and Recreation Department in 2009.

Next month we will talk about Oak Knoll Park.

New Business / Old Business

There is no new or old business to report.

Respectfully Submitted by: Denise Ucinski